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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/647,392 | 08/26/2003 | Jun Okazaki | 04329.3118 | 2035 |
| 22852 | 7590 | 05/14/2008 | | |
| FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413 | | | EXAMINER CLOUD, JOIYA M | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2144 | PAPER NUMBER |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/647,392

Applicant(s)

OKAZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Joiya M. Cloud

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 13-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 13-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 May 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the communication filed 02/26/2008. Claims 1 and 13-15 are pending. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/26/2008 has been entered.

Priority

Should applicant desire to obtain the benefit of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) prior to declaration of an interference, a certified English translation of the foreign application must be submitted in reply to this action. 37 CFR 41.154(b) and 41.202(e).

Failure to provide a certified translation may result in no benefit being accorded for the non-English application JP 2002-245373.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1 and 13-15**, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattig (U.S. Patent No. 6775244 B1) in view of Niida et al (US Patent No. 6,996,096 B2).

As per claim 1, Hattig discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Hattig discloses a network device comprising: a first connection section (**Figure 1, item 20, where the first connection section is the bus 1394 interface configured to connect to the Office network**) configured to be connected to a first network that conforms to a serial interface standard (**Figure 1, item 16**); a second connection section (**Figure 1, item 19, where the second connection section is the bus 1394 interface configured to connect to the Bedroom network**) (**Figure 1, item 14**) configured to be connected to a second network that conforms to a standard different from the first network;

a device number detection section (**within the discovery information**) configured to detect a number of devices connected to the second network through the second connection section (**col. 3, lines 1-30**);

an information collection section (**Figure 3, step s305, col. 3, lines 24-33**) configured to collect information on the equipment connected to the second network through the second connection section (**col. 3, lines 1-33**);

a detection section (**col. 3, lines 20-25**) configured to detect a change caused in either the number of devices detected by the quantity detection section or the information collected by the information collection section (**col. 3, lines 39-48**);

However, Hattig does not explicitly teach a set membership assignment section configured to assign a relationship between a parent device and a child device in conformity with the serial interface standard, to each of the devices connected to the second network when the detection section detects a change in either the number of devices or the information; an assignment section configured to generate identification information corresponding to the number of the devices detected by the device number detection section and assign the identification information to each of the devices connected to the second network on the basis of the relationship between a parent and child device assigned by the set membership assignment section; a reset section configured to require reconstruction for adding the devices connected to the second network to the first network, while the identification information is assigned by the assignment section to each of the devices connected to the second network and is formatted according to the first network; and a transmitting section configured to transmit the identification information to the first network through the first connection section, while the reconstruction is required by the reset section.

Niida teaches a set membership assignment section configured to assign a relationship between a parent device and a child device in conformity with the serial interface standard, to each of the devices connected to the second network when the detection section detects a change in either the number of devices or the information (**Abstract, col. 14, lines 1-15**); an assignment section configured to generate identification information corresponding to the number of the devices detected by the device number detection section and assign the identification information to each of the devices connected to the second network on the basis of the relationship between a parent and child device assigned by the set membership assignment section (**col. 9, lines 29-38**);

a reset section configured to require reconstruction for adding the devices connected to the second network to the first network, while the identification information is assigned by the assignment section to each of the devices connected to the second network and is formatted according to the first network (**col. 12, lines 49-53 and col. 4, lines 8-22**); and a transmitting section configured to transmit the identification information to the first network through the first connection section, while the reconstruction is required by the reset section (**col. 4, lines 8-22**).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the networking art at the time the invention was made to have incorporate Hattig's teachings to the teachings of Niida, for the purpose of "giving priority" based on the partnership of the parent/child relationship (**col. 2, lines 53-57**). Furthermore, assigning a relationship between a parent device and a child device allows the parent and child to interact and identify with each other based on the assigned identification information. The further purpose to require reconstruction through a reset section provides the ability of manipulation of the detected devices.

As per claim 13, Hattig-Niida teaches the device further comprising a storage section configured to store the information collected by the information collection section (**Hattig: Figure 3, step s305**) and the identification information generated by the assignment section in relation to each other (**Hattig: col. 3, lines 39-48**); and a transfer section configured to receive data supplied from the first network through the first connection section (**Hattig: col. 3, lines 23-29 and col. 4, lines 24-49**), specify the equipment connected to the second network from identification information included in the data in accordance with contents stored in the storage

section, and transmit the data to the specified equipment (**Hattig: col. 3, lines 23-29 and col. 4, lines 24-49**).

As per **claim 14**, Hattig-Niida teaches a network bridging method for making data transmission between first and second networks different from each other, comprising: a first step for detecting a number of equipment connected to the second network (**Niida: col. 4, lines 7-22, col. 9, lines 29-41, and col. 14, lines 1-15**); a second step for collecting information on the equipment connected to the second network; a third step for detecting a change caused in either the number detected in the first step or the information collected in the second step; a fourth step for assigning, when a change in the number or the information is detected in the third step, a set membership to each equipment connected to the second network, the set membership being valid when a virtual connection on the first network is established (**Niida: col. 4, lines 7-22, col. 9, lines 29-41, and col. 14, lines 1-15**); a fifth step for generating as many identification information as the number of the equipment detected in the first step and assigning the identification information to the respective equipment connected to the second network, in accordance with the set membership assigned in the fourth step; a sixth step for requiring reconstruction for adding the equipment connected to the second network to the first network, while the identification information is assigned to the respective equipment connected to the second network in the fifth step (**Niida: col. 4, lines 8-22**); and a seventh step for transmitting the identification information to the first network, while the reconstruction is required in the sixth step (**Niida: col. 4, lines 7-22, col. 9, lines 29-41, and col. 14, lines 1-15**).

As per claim 15, Hattig-Niida teaches the method further comprising an eighth step for storing the information collected in the second step and the identification information generated in the fifth step in relation to each other; and a ninth step for receiving data supplied from the first network, specifying the equipment connected to the second network from identification information included in the data in accordance with contents stored in the eighth step, and transmitting the data to the specified equipment (**Hattig: col. 3, lines 23-29, col. 3, lines 39-48 and col. 4, lines 24-49**).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joiya Cloud whose telephone number is 571-270-1146. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3922. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JMC

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner

May 8, 2008